

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3276

ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005

DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF PASSPORT

Ahmad Shri Ateeq;Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Rana Shri Kashi Ram;Thummar Shri Virjibhai;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether slow progress in police verification is the major reason for the delayed issuance of passports;
- (b) if so, the number of passport applications pending as on date, RPO -wise;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear the pending applications at the earliest;
- (d) whether district passport cells have not been set up in all the districts;
- (e) if so, the time by when these are likely to be set up;
- (f) whether inspection of passport offices have been conducted recently;
- (g) if so, the details of various cases of corruption that have been unearthed thereby; and
- (h) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAOINDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) Non-receipt of police verification report in time is sometimes one of the reasons for delay in issue of passports.
- (b) A statement is attached at annexure 'A'
- (c) Steps taken to clear the pendency include-
 - (i) request police for expeditious verification
 - (ii) streamlining of the process of application
 - (iii) strengthening of public enquiry counters
 - (iv) Opening of a Central Public Grievance Monitoring Cell under direct supervision of Chief Passport Officer to monitor complaints of delays.
- (d) District Passport Cells have been opened in all States except Uttaranchal. Currently, approximately 400 districts in the country have District Passport Cells.
- (e) The concerned State Governments and Union Territories have been apprised of the advantages of opening of District Passport Cells and have been requested to open District Passport Cells in the districts where these have not yet been opened.
- (f) Passport Offices are regularly inspected by officers of the Ministry.
- (g) Does not arise.
- (h) Action against those found guilty in such cases is taken as per rules and includes suspension or imposition of appropriate penalties.

ANNEXURE - 'A'

Pendency Statement

Sl.No. Passport Office Applications pending as on 14.03.2005

1	Ahmedabad	4520
2	Bangalore	4462
3	Bareilly	1618
4	Bhopal	8535
5	Bhubaneswar	1882
6	Chandigarh	10488
7	Chennai	4164
8	Cochin	3126
9	Delhi	8779
10	Ghaziabad	2118
11	Guwahati	220
12	Hyderabad	2134
13	Jaipur	22087
14	Jalandhar	3578
15	Jammu	79
16	Kolkata	1208
17	Kozhikode	13927
18	Lucknow	10264
19	Mumbai	745
20	Nagpur	1375
21	Panaji	209
22	Patna	1283
23	Pune	45
24	Ranchi	2520
25	Srinagar	2934
26	Surat	2656
27	Thane	NIL
28	Tiruchirappalli	4516
29	Trivandrum	3428
30	Visakhapatnam	2924